



American AgCredit, ACA
MONEY FOR AGRICULTURE

Banker's Letter

November 28, 2005

Docket Clerk
Marketing Order Administrative Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Stop 0237
Washington, DC 20250

USDA
OALJ/OHC
2005 NOV 30 AM 9:39
RECEIVED

Dear Sir:

Re: Docket No. FV03-925-1PR

Our Association services the Coachella Valley, the location where the first table grapes are harvested in the U.S. Our Association provides financial services for growers. These financial services involve loans and currency transfers for the international trade.

We have watched over the years how the table grape acreage and growers have decreased while import competition increased. In discussing the grape import problem with the grape growers, I have learned that the Coachella growers are not concerned with competing against quality grapes but the major concern is competing with poor quality grapes. As the Chilean poor quality grapes increase during the Coachella marketing period, the poor quality Chilean grapes drive the price lower and lower.

My Association supports the moving of the mandatory inspection date from April 20th to April 1st in order that more of the Chilean grapes are inspected. Unless the USDA approves the proposed rule, we are concerned the Coachella acreage and growers will decrease, thereby disrupting the economy of the Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

Ron Carli
President and CEO